

JOURNAL NGOUVA



www.c-3.org.uk

Community Centred Conservation—C3-Comores

C3-Comores, BP 8310, Iconi, Grande Comore
Email: info@c-3.org.uk

Tel. +269 73 75 04,
34 25 5719, 34 47 67

AIDE



6
Jan-Feb 2007

Dugong interviews are now complete!

During the month of January, C3 and a team of Comorian university students and AIDE members questioned over 1200 people in 42 villages on Grande Comore, 69 of whom had seen dugongs. It was exciting to hear that dugongs had been sighted near Mitsamiouli as recently as December 2006.

Also in January, Melissa Hauzer, with University of the Comoros students and AIDE members, Kamaria Nasser Eddine and Nasser Affou Anlou, travelled to Anjouan to complete dugong surveys with fishers on the last of the 3 islands. A total of 1,000 people were approached in 30 villages, providing information on 63 dugong sightings between the years of 1945 and 2006.

At the end of the trip, the three spent a few days in the region of Bimbini looking at seagrasses and the impacts of coastal degradation. The students used the work towards their university dissertation.



Hunting for seagrass at Bimbini

Turtle Conference

Chris Poonian travelled all the way to South Carolina, USA in February for the International Sea Turtle Symposium at Myrtle Beach. Chris presented C3's collaborative work with Mohéli Marine Park during 2006 at the Indian Ocean South East Asia (IOSEA) side meeting and he also gave an oral presentation at the symposium about C3's capacity-building work in the village of Hoani, Mohéli. Both presentations were extremely well-received and many international experts have agreed to support C3 in the expansion of sea turtle conservation activities in the Comoros. We would like to acknowledge the support of the Western Pacific Fisheries Management Council, The US National Marine Fisheries Service, Disney's Animal Kingdom and the Symposium Committee who provided a travel grant.

Presentation of Preliminary Results from 2006

Government officials, UNDP, local NGOs, and university students were invited to attend the Ministry of the Environment on January 27th for a presentation of C3's preliminary research results for 2006. Patricia Davis, Chris Poonian, and Melissa Hauzer presented C3's work to date as well as plans for future projects.

Melissa also gave the presentation to the Management Committee of Mohéli Marine Park, who thanked C3 for its assistance during 2006 and expressed a strong willingness to collaborate in the future. The committee remarked that C3's assistance had been indispensable to the well-being of the Marine Park.



Thank you Yemenia!

C3 is extremely grateful to Yemenia for providing discounted flights for our staff and interns. This will allow us to direct more funds into our work in the field. Yemenia is the most popular airline currently serving the Comoros. Its modern, efficient fleet fly directly to Sana'a, Yemen, with connections to Europe and Asia.

Yemenia  اليمنية



Interviewing fishers about dugongs in Anjouan

'...to develop conservation efforts worldwide by building the capacity of local individuals and institutions through grassroots research and training initiatives'

Turtle poaching study to be extended

C3's turtle poaching study which was conducted on Mohéli during the months of November and December generated such useful data that it will now be extended to the other 2 islands of Anjouan and Grande Comore as soon as funding is available. C3 predicts that the results from the study will provide vital information on how turtle poaching may be stopped in the Comoros.

Turtle poaching in the Comoros is a serious threat to endangered sea turtle populations. While many villages on Mohéli are at least modestly aware of the devastation caused to turtle populations by poaching, most villages on Grande Comore and Anjouan have yet to receive any awareness raising or education. The consumption of turtle meat on these 2 islands is more visible than on Mohéli. While in Moroni, C3 recently found an open-air turtle meat market selling green turtle meat poached from Mohéli. Consumers were even seen walking openly with clear plastic bags full of turtle meat.

National Coral Reef Monitoring programme

The National Coral Reef Monitoring Programme, led by Said Ahamada (AIDE) continued in January. Mmadi Ahamada (who was trained to scuba dive by C3 in 2005), Stephane Ibrahim and Ahmed Youssouf headed up to Trou du Prophete in the Northwest of Grande Comore to carry out snorkelling transects of both corals and fish. Chris Poonian of C3 assisted with the fish transects, and Said Ahamada provided tuition in coral identification.



Green Turtle (Photo: Jon Rudderforth)

Ecotourism weekend

Melissa Hauzer and C3 trainee, Mouzidalifa Issouf participated in a Weekend of Ecotourism organized by the Ecole Supérieure de Technologie (E.S.T) in Moroni on February 17th and 18th. The purpose of the event was to promote ecotourism as a means to development and the reduction of poverty in the Comoros. C3 was invited to join in the event and to present our study on ecotourism in Mohéli. C3's work in Hoani proved to be an inspiration for many. Overall, the weekend was a big hit with colourful costumes, traditional song and dance, local artisanal crafts, and tasty bites. It was also a great opportunity for students, professors, authorities, and organizations to connect and share ideas on the future path of ecotourism in the Comoros.



Mohélian Coral Reef

Marine Science Centre

The University of the Comoros' biology programme recently collaborated with AIDE to establish a Marine Science Centre at the University. The centre is an area for students and visitors to learn more about the marine environment of the Comoros. The centre hosts illustrative posters, species identification guides, marine science documents, and in the future hopes to display various seagrass and algae specimens. C3 intern Audrey Clark put to use her artistic talents to decorate the centre.

Reports, reports, reports!

It is that time of year and C3 has been busy writing reports on our work on Mohéli over the past 9 months. We hope to finish several reports soon including: Community Perceptions of Mohéli Marine Park, Ecotourism Development and Status of the Dugong. These will be available on our website, www.c-3.org.uk.

The C3 Team

Patricia Davis, Director
Chris Poonian, Projects Manager
Melissa Hauzer, Projects Coordinator
Audrey Clark, Intern
Mouzidalifa Issouf Bounou, Trainee
Miroirdine Kamardine Mabrouk Slim, Trainee



PADI FOUNDATION

